E/CONF.39/D/165
SUMMARY
23 Nov.1962
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL : SPANISH

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE
ON THE APPLICATION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE LESS DEVELOPED AREAS

SUMMARY

Agenda Item: D.5.1

Mexico

SITUATION AND PROSPECTS OF THE PAPER AND WOOD-PULP INDUSTRY IN MEXICO

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SITUATION AND PROSPECTS OF THE PAPER AND WOOD-PULP INDUSTRY IN MEXICO

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SUMMARY

I. Development. The Mexican paper and wood-pulp industry has developed notably within recent years as a result of the country's economic and social growth. During the period 1957 to 1961, there was an increase in production of 8.1%. The comparative figure for the increase in world production during the same period was 5.6%.

1. The branch of industry concerned with paper production comprises 43 firms, with a total investment of about 2,000 million pesos and jobs for 12,000 people including workmen, technicians and clerks.

2. Current production capacity is about 490,000 tons of paper and the industry works at about 85% of that capacity.

II. Shortages. Notwithstanding the speedy development of the industry, it still does not satisfy the internal demand for newsprint, cardboard, some white papers for printing purposes and special papers. In 1960, imports of these products totalled 2,721.7 million pesos, representing 19% of apparent national consumption, and 90% of this cost was expended on newsprint.

3. It is estimated that by 1965, the total demand for paper and cardboard will be about 586,000 tons rising to 761,000 tons in 1970. The need for wood-pulp for those years will be 627,300 tons and 816,000 tons respectively, according to the present production rate of the industry.

III. Projects. A scheme for plant to manufacture newsprint in Uruapan, Michoacan, has the backing of Nacional Financiera Ltd., - an official financing organisation. Such plant would obviate the necessity for importing newsprint. In Cuenca del Papaloapan, there are also sufficient forestry resources for a similar plant and the possibility of establishing one is under consideration.

4. Of the 40 factories making wood-pulp, 33 process it in an integral form for consumption and the other seven make it to sell. However, in Mexico there is a shortage of wood-pulp, basically of sulphite wood-pulp, which is imported to the extent needed to cover 17.4% of national requirements.

5. The firm of Kimberly-Clark of Mexico Ltd., has plans in hand for making sulphite wood-pulp in the State of Mexico, where there are coniferous forests.

IV. Prospects. A complete and exhaustive study of the forestry resources of Mexico is needed to widen the prospects of the paper and wood-pulp industry. Also needed is the improved use of other basic materials like sugar cane begasse, wheat straw, bamboo and banana stalks, which Mexico possesses in large quantities. These proposals offer wide possibilities in this field.

6. The joint efforts of the State and national private enterprise added to outside technical and financial assistance would contribute towards a major advance in this branch of industry aimed at supplying the whole of national demand for ordinary papers and wood-pulp and, little by little, those high-quality special papers which are at present imported.

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